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## Editorial

# Resist the Arroyo regime's terrorist rule

**G**loria Arroyo was compelled after just a week to revoke the nationwide "state of emergency" she had declared, citing claims from her subalterns that threats to the country's security had largely been eradicated. She had earlier issued Proclamation 1017 on February 24.

In truth, PP 1017 was met with fierce and widespread criticism within and outside the Philippines. The declaration's legality was questioned and its bases belied. Bans on rallies and other protests were defied. People's resistance and calls for Arroyo's ouster grew widespread.

Arroyo effected a token revocation of PP 1017 to evade widespread criticism and preempt whatever decision the Supreme Court may issue on the matter. But there was no ending her deception, her lies and repression. Rescinding PP 1017 was no different from Marcos' fake lifting of martial law when he declared "normalization" in 1981.

Right after PP 1017's token lifting, Arroyo and her minions declared that they would continue pursuing the masterminds of an alleged coup and issued chilling guidelines for the mass media to make sure the latter complied with the regime's "standards." Repressive measures continued to target the broad united front of patriotic, democratic and progressive forces and others waging resistance against the regime.

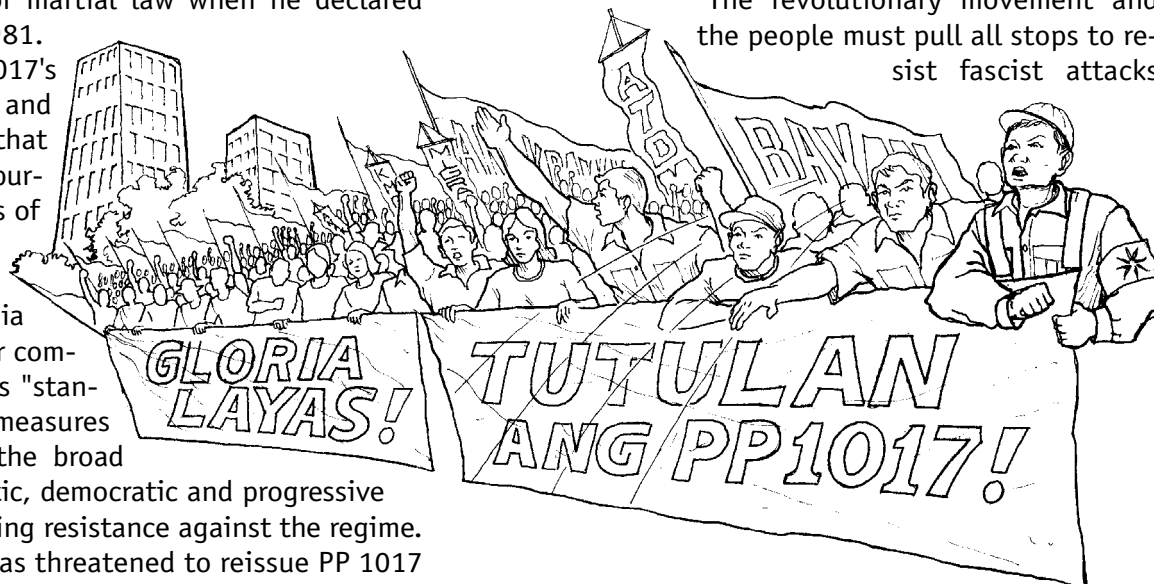
The government has threatened to reissue PP 1017

or similar measures "whenever the situation warrants." The puppet and fascist Arroyo regime is on a relentless fascist counter-offensive to maintain itself in power and impose ever worsening antinational, anti-democratic and antipeople policies.

There is an ongoing allout campaign to annihilate revolutionary and progressive forces, both legal and illegal, armed and unarmed as well as other democratic forces, the political opposition and ordinary folk pushing for an end to the much-hated corrupt, brutal, puppet and illegal regime.

In the face of all this, the anti-Arroyo forces have no other choice but to expand and intensify mass actions and continue urging various sectors of society, including upright government officials and military and police forces to withdraw support from the Arroyo regime.

The revolutionary movement and the people must pull all stops to resist fascist attacks



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against them and further expand and intensify all forms of struggle to overthrow Gloria Arroyo. Present conditions are exceedingly more favorable for the further expansion of the anti-Arroyo and antifascist united front.

The revolutionary forces must actively take the lead in the allout effort to expose, assail and fully hold the puppet and fascist regime accountable.

The revolutionary and progressive forces must exert effort to further expand anti-Arroyo and antifascist alliances on a nationwide and regional scale as well as in the localities. A new alliance may be formed to accommodate a broader range of forces or to circumvent the fascist regime's suppression.

There is basis for the people to go all out in resisting the relentless and increasingly fascist regime. Let us advance and encourage the people's fighting spirit and propagate courageous defiance to fascist orders. Let us set up various centers of resistance under the ample umbrella of a united front.

Let us continue focusing our efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the people around the burn-

ing issues of corruption, hunger and oppression and sharply relate these issues to the call to oust Arroyo from Malacañang. It is but right for us to hold the Arroyo government accountable for missing or misappropriated funds, demand that malversed funds be restored to those who should benefit from them and hold the regime liable for plunder and other related crimes.

Marshal popular anger at the Arroyo regime's malversation of billions of funds from government coffers amid the widespread hunger and poverty suffered by the people. Assail the regime for imposing programs in favor of imperialists, big landlords, the big comprador-bourgeoisie and highly placed corrupt government officials that squeeze the broad masses of the people dry and enslave them.


The people's revolutionary consciousness grows ever higher as the roots of their hunger and oppression—US imperialist, feudal and bureaucrat capitalist rule over the country—are laid out sharply before them. These issues take aim not only against the puppet and fascist Arroyo regime but the entire ruling semicolonial and semifeudal

system as well. They must be bantered in gigantic mass actions nationwide. Mass struggles and a propaganda movement for the people's democratic revolution must be invigorated along with the intensification of anti-Arroyo struggles.

The New People's Army will further intensify tactical offensives and recruitment of new Red fighters. There is even greater need to intensify armed revolution to effectively resist the fascist regime's brutality and oppression and point the people along the correct path of revolution. There should be more widespread and more frequent basic tactical offensives. We must also give more particular attention to, and launch more frequent, special tactical offensives that inflict head blows and convey resounding political messages to the fascist regime and the entire people.

We must likewise resist and thwart the rabid attacks and annihilation campaigns against revolutionary and progressive forces. Expect the fascist regime to train its most vicious and intense acts of repression against genuine revolutionary and progressive forces in the countryside and cities. Even now, there is a more massive, more brutal and more brazen implementation of the policy of assassination and abuse against progressive forces and basic mass organizations.

There should be stricter measures to secure progressive forces and frustrate the fascist enemy's efforts to inflict damage even as we firmly endeavor to advance people's struggles. In this regard, we must further expand and deepen the urban underground movement while asserting legal rights and open mass actions. Those who have been marked for assassination by the enemy are at the same time

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## Fascist attacks on anti-Arroyo forces

**A**mong the principal targets of Presidential Proclamation (PP) No. 1017 declaring a "state of national emergency" and its attendant General Order (GO) No. 5 are the forces comprising the broad united front against Arroyo's rule, especially leaders of progressive parties.

Arroyo invoked alleged coup plans by a "Left-Right conspiracy" involving rebel soldiers, the New People's Army, opposition parties and legal organizations to justify massive repression in the wake of these two orders. Pressed for the names of the so-called coup conspirators, the Department of Justice (DOJ) later released a hodgepodge list of known CPP-NPA-NDF leaders, anti-Arroyo soldiers and officers and leaders of legal and progressive parties.

Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran was arrested without warrant on February 25 in violation of his basic human rights and without any regard whatsoever for his status as a congressman. Just to detain him, the DOJ dredged up an old rebellion case slapped by the Marcos dictatorship against Ka Bel way back in 1985. The DOJ was later forced to file new rebellion charges against Ka Bel regarding his alleged involvement in an attempted coup after the regime met with widespread opposition for using a 20-year-old case against the Anakpawis representative. Since rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment, Ka Bel has not been able to invoke parliamentary immunity against arrest and detention as the latter is applicable only in cases punishable by six years imprisonment or less.

The 73-year-old Ka Bel has been detained at Camp Crame for almost two weeks. The regime was recently compelled to transfer him temporarily to the PNP General Hospital because he suffers from hypertension



and diabetes. Only his family and his lawyers have been allowed to visit him. In spite of this, there are daily pickets outside Camp Crame demanding his release.

The regime also plans to arrest congresspersons Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Liza Maza of Gabriela Women's Party and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, who like Ka Bel, have been implicated in an alleged coup plot. Only widespread opposition from their fellow representatives in congress has prevented the PNP from arresting them. They are currently under the Congress' custody and have been living within the Batasan premises for more than a week. Not a day passes without support for them pouring in from various personalities and organizations.

Also targeted for arrest are former senator Gregorio Honasan and active and retired officers and soldiers said to be involved in organizing anti-Arroyo groups within the AFP and PNP.

Arroyo has likewise been putting the heat on former president Corazon Aquino who has not relented in calling for Arroyo's resignation. It is Aquino who is the actual target of attempts to implicate her brother, former

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advised to shift to the countryside to seek refuge with the revolutionary armed forces or work in the arena of armed struggle.

We must deepen the underground movement and practice secrecy in the countryside. We must seriously brace ourselves to face the threat of widespread killings and massacres against the mass

movement in rural areas. The organized masses must be trained to fight relentlessly and wage evasive maneuvers in the face of the violence, terrorism and harassment inflicted by fascist troops. All elements who are likely or certain targets for assassination by fascist forces must change their mode of operations and strictly avoid going to identified locations, being entrapped by the enemy and having

the latter establish the pattern of their movements.

All leading Party committees must pay detailed and careful attention to ensure the swift, secure and unhampered flow of communication in their respective areas of operation and with higher Party organs. We must ensure that reports and instructions are rapidly and securely exchanged between leading and lower Party units. **AB**

congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Pastor "Boy" Saycon in the alleged coup.

Former president Joseph Estrada is likewise being pressured through accusations that he had provided funds for the rebel soldiers. Estrada has admitted that his Saludo sa Kawal Foundation has donated a total of P8 million to military and police units that are under close scrutiny by the regime. But he has clarified that the amount was given as a Christmas gift and was received directly by the units' cooperatives, with not a single centavo given directly to the units themselves.

Activists have likewise been subjected to strict surveillance. Men in plainclothes who have been identified as police officers have been staking out the Kilusang Mayo Uno office in Quezon City. On February 25, a SWAT team entered the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City looking for student leaders. Even staff working in the offices of progressive parties in congress have been placed under surveillance by suspected PNP agents.

### **Media repression**

Arroyo's repressive rule has likewise targeted the media, especially *The Daily Tribune*, a newspaper highly critical of Arroyo and active in exposing cases of anomalies and corruption involving the regime. *Tribune* editor-in-chief Ninez Cacho-Olivares was charged with sedition on March 3 along with columnists Ike Señeres and Herman Tiu-Laurel.

Prior to this, the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) raided the *Tribune's* offices and printing press and occupied its office for more than a week. PNP personnel likewise "visited" the office of the tabloid *Abante* on February 28, asking questions on the newspaper's officers.

The National Telecommunica-

## **Filipinos hold protests in the US, Canada, Hong Kong**

Filipinos overseas continue to advance protests against Proclamation 1017 and its sham lifting. In the US and Canada, progressive and democratic organizations of Filipino migrants and their supporters have launched a widespread petition campaign protesting the new fascist dictatorship and calling for Arroyo's ouster from power.

Gabriela Network USA began sustained protest actions against PP 1017 on March 1. It vowed to carry out daily demonstrations and pickets in front of the Philippine Embassy and Philippine consulates in various parts of the US. In Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, heavy snow failed to prevent Filipinos and their supporters from marching against Arroyo's fascist measures. Various patriotic and democratic organizations in New York and Los Angeles also held mass actions on February 27. In Canada, various human rights advocacy groups and Filipino migrant organizations issued a statement of solidarity with the Filipino people on February 24.

In Hong Kong, migrants under the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL) and Migrante International also launched a rally. In Bangkok, Thailand, 30 Filipino migrants entered the Philippine Embassy on March 2 and invited Ambassador Antonio Rodriguez to join the anti-Arroyo protest.

The Philippine European Solidarity also issued a statement of concern and solidarity with the struggle for freedom and democracy in the Philippines. Meanwhile, the Filipino Resource Center in Oslo, Norway launched an e-mail campaign condemning PP 1017. **AB**

tions Commission (NTC) issued a memorandum March 3 setting "standards" for broadcasting companies. The NTC prohibited the broadcast media from using their facilities to air statements calling for the overthrow of government through violence or any statement that would "incite or encourage treason, rebellion or sedition or pose a clear and present danger to the state."

Before this, the NTC had already threatened to take control of any broadcast company found in violation of government "standards." It reissued an old memorandum that outrightly banned broadcasters from giving air time to so-called "enemies of the state."

The DOJ simultaneously announced that there were seven

broadcast companies on its watchlist.

Arroyo has likewise been putting the heat on ABS-CBN for its continued coverage of various protest actions by anti-Arroyo groups. The DOJ has threatened to charge the broadcast network with inciting to sedition for its news coverage of the events in Fort Bonifacio on February 26.

### **Proclamation 1017 fires up people's resistance**

The Filipino people remain unfazed despite intimidation from the regime and the enforcement of more repressive measures since PP 1017's declaration and lifting.

On February 24, the day Arroyo issued PP 1017, tens of thousands rallied in Ayala to commemorate the

20th anniversary of EDSA 1 and demand Arroyo's ouster. It was a show of collective defiance by the people to PP 1017 which the police invoked to block demonstrators and violently disperse thousands of rallyists who had earlier gathered at the EDSA Shrine. More than a hundred rallyists were arrested by the police.

Since then, near daily mass actions against PP 1017 and in defense of the right to expression and assembly have been launched.

Almost 20 lawyers' organizations, parties and a number of individuals have questioned before the Supreme Court the SONE, PP 1017 and Arroyo's subsequent measures.

Among the petitioners are the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the Alternative Law Group, Public Interest Law Center, professors at the UP Law Center, the Kilusang Mayo Uno and House of Representatives Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Rep. Lorenzo Tañada II of Quezon. The Court is set to hear the petitions on March 7.

Hundreds likewise gathered in front of Fort Bonifacio on February 26, within the University of the Philippines (UP) campus in Diliman, Quezon City and along Ayala Avenue in Makati in support of the protest action waged by elements of the Philippine Marines inside

Fort Bonifacio (*see related article*).

Mass actions by UP students and teachers hit the news in the next several days. The students and teachers declared their campus free from PP 1017. Hundreds joined protests held almost daily at the school, which included a walkout by teachers and students on February 27 and nightly vigils. UP president Dr. Emerlinda Roman said that the entire UP system would uphold the right to free expression and assembly.

The District Council of the De La Salle Brothers, the University Council of the University of the Philippines in Diliman and the Ateneo de Manila University have like-

## NPA launches series of armed actions in response to Proclamation 1017

Units of the New People's Army (NPA) launched a series of military actions in response to Gloria Arroyo's Proclamation 1017 placing the entire country under "a state of national emergency." The armed actions are the NPA's contribution to the effort to hasten the Arroyo regime's downfall.

**March 3, Mindoro.** A platoon under the NPA Lucio de Guzman Command ambushed troops of the Philippine National Police Regional Mobile Group in Sitio Minolo, Barangay San Isidro, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro. The Red fighters detonated bombs on the dump trucks that the police were riding at around 6 o'clock in the morning, killing two policemen on the spot and wounding three others. The PNP unit was then conducting pursuit operations against the NPA.

Meanwhile, in Mindanao island, NPA units launched 18 armed attacks against the fascist regime's troops and armed minions from PP 1017's issuance until February 28. Among them are the following:

**February 27, Barangay Zapanta, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte.** Red fighters from the NPA-Front 16 launched a harassment operation against two platoons of the 30th IB that held an entire barangay hostage to shield themselves against the NPA. One soldier was killed.

**February 26, Barangay Bugsokan, Butuan City.** Members of the NPA-Front 21 harassed troops of the

29th IB conducting operations, killing a soldier.

**February 25, Barangay Cabongbongan, Surigao City.** Members of the NPA-Front 19 harassed the 23rd IB-CAFGU detachment at 2:12 in the morning, inflicting an undetermined number of casualties on the enemy.

**Barangay Zapanta, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte.** Red guerrillas of Front 14 launched two ambushes on two patrolling columns of the Philippine Army 30th IB at around 10:30 a.m. and again at 11:30 noon, causing undetermined casualties.

**Barangay Kasapa, Loreto, Agusan del Sur.** Members of the NPA-Front 34 disarmed an element of the Civilian Volunteer Organization and confiscated his .38 revolver, a VHF radio and three bullet-proof vests.

**February 24, Barangay Masara, Compostela Valley.** Red fighters of the NPA-Front 27 disarmed guards of the Crew Gold Mining Corporation, seizing two .45 pistols, nine .38 revolvers and six shotguns. They also confiscated nine VHF handset radios and a VHF base radio. A security guard who resisted was wounded in a brief firefight.

**8:00 p.m. in Sitio Apa-apa, Bangonay, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.** Fighters of the NPA-Front 16 harassed troops of the Philippine Army 30th IB conducting operations, triggering a misencounter among the military. Two soldiers were killed and one wounded as the troops mistakenly fired at each other. **AB**

## NPA ambushes soldiers in Negros

FIVE soldiers were killed and two were wounded in two separate ambushes by the New People's Army (NPA) on elements of the Philippine Army in Candoni, Negros Occidental on January 29.

The enemy sustained its casualties after a unit under the NPA-Roger Mahinay Command ambushed a column of the 61st IB that was poised to attack an NPA camp at around 3:00 p.m. that day. The Red fighters were able to mount a successful ambush after positioning themselves along routes that would likely be taken by the soldiers. Three soldiers were killed and one was wounded in the hour-long firefight.

At around 5:00 p.m., the NPA ambushed reinforcing military units, killing two soldiers on the spot. In a statement, Roger Mahinay Command spokesperson Ka Nilo Magtanggol said no one was killed or wounded on the NPA side in the two armed encounters. **AB**

wise issued official statements against Arroyo's fascist measures.

The Senate has also condemned the SONE as an infringement of the constitution and the Bill of Rights. Led by Sen. Franklin Drilon, the Senate passed a resolution condemning PP 1017 and has scheduled hearings to oppose it. Except for Sens. Lito Lapid and Miriam Santiago, the senators showed their protest by wearing black armbands. Sen. Jamby Madrigal has also filed a complaint against Arroyo at the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

The senators are likewise preparing to file a plunder case against Arroyo and her cohorts among leading officials of the Department of Agriculture for stealing bil-

lions of pesos and using the amount to fund Arroyo's 2004 electoral campaign.

Many of Arroyo's allies in Congress have likewise taken stands against PP 1017. Congress unanimously approved a resolution taking custody of five congresspersons targeted for arrest by the PNP and condemning repressive measures attendant to PP 1017.

Major religious organizations such as the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP), United Churches of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP), Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Catholic Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, Ecumenical Bishops Forum, United Methodist Church and Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) also collectively issued a statement of protest on February 28.

"We will not be intimidated!" said the officers and personnel of *The Daily Tribune*, ABS-CBN and *Abante* in reaction to the threats hurled against them. The National

Press Club (NPC) rose from hibernation to assail media repression. A protest action was launched February 27 within NPC premises by the Na-

tional Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), Alyansa ng mga Filipinong Mamamahayag, Malacañang Press Corps, Progressive Tri-Media of Pasay City, National Bureau of Investigation Press Club, Manila Police District Press Corps, Camanava Press Corps and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Press Corps.

Up to 500 lawyers and members of other sectors likewise rallied on March 3. Led by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, they marched towards the EDSA Shrine in Ortigas Avenue where they were blocked by police who tried to stop the rally by force even after Gloria Arroyo had lifted PP 1017. The Makati Business Club has likewise opposed PP 1017, expressing fears about its deleterious effects on the economy.

### The Arroyo dictatorship consolidates itself

Despite her claims that she had already lifted PP 1017, Gloria Arroyo's fascist policies and virtual martial rule remain. PP 1017 and GO 5's viciousness persists against the regime's enemies. The five representatives of progressive parties continue to be threatened with arrest and repression of the media prevails.

Arroyo herself has announced that her regime would not hesitate to issue proclamations like PP 1017 whenever the situation warrants. She has not rescinded GO 5 which the AFP and PNP continue to invoke in suppressing the Filipino people.

Arroyo has ordered Congress to kick off the charter change process by mid-year as part of her efforts to consolidate her power. Aside from coming up with a more antinational and anti-democratic constitution following US imperialist dictates, Arroyo also intends to push provisions that would allow her to acquire Marcosian powers in her concurrent capacity as president and prime minis-



ter. Evident in the content of the proposed transitory provisions, it is these terms that have pushed Constitutional Commission member Vicente Paterno to resign.

Arroyo has likewise appointed Ronaldo Puno as the new secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government to acquire more

extensive political power and control by consolidating her hold on local executives.

It was also the Arroyo clique that masterminded a coup within the Liberal Party that ousted Sen. Franklin Drilon as president and placed Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Malacañang Chief of Staff Mike

Defensor at the party's helm. To be able to use government funds to pay for the transportation and other expenses of the people it had gathered to attend a party convention to oust Drilon, Malacañang misrepresented the assembly as a DILG seminar for local executives. Drilon has refused to recognize the fake convention. **AB**

## Persistent fractiousness in the AFP

**T**he AFP remains hounded by worsening fractiousness. The latest protest in the AFP was precipitated by Gloria Arroyo's attempt to remove from the ranks officers and soldiers who oppose her continued stay in power. Malacañang's persistent claims that it continues to enjoy the AFP's full support have failed to cover up this fact. No less than AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga claimed that Brig. Gen. Danny Lim, commander of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, and Col. Ariel Querubin, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, invited him on February 23 to join AFP and PNP personnel who planned to participate in mass protests scheduled the following day.

Also on February 23, the PNP leadership learned of a plan by officers and men of the PNP-Special Action Force based in Camp Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna to join the same rallies and announce their withdrawal of support for the Arroyo regime. SAF commander Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco and his three subordinate officers Senior Supt. Benjamin Magalong, Chief Insp. Ericson Dilag and Insp. Ryan Paloma were all removed from their posts. Many other officers in the AFP and PNP's lower levels of command in the provinces have been replaced on suspicion of disloyalty to the Arroyo regime.

The relief of Major General Miranda on February 26 sparked a protest action by forces of the 1st and 2nd Marine Brigades at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Gen. Nelson Allaga who was assigned to replace Miranda is one of the AFP officers implicated with Arroyo in perpetrating massive electoral fraud in Lanao province in 2004.

Col. Ariel Querubin led the Marines who staged a protest action inside the camp to denounce General Miranda's "unjust" relief. They took positions in front of the commandant's office with an amphibian landing tank and three armored personnel carriers. Through media, Querubin issued a call for people's support, which was immediately heeded by several hundreds who gathered outside the camp. The crowd included former president Corazon Aquino, former vice

president Teofisto Guingona, senators, congressmen, and other known personalities. Several hundreds also gathered in Ayala Avenue and inside UP Diliman.

The standoff was resolved after the marine officers took a vote and agreed to follow the chain of command. But continuing unrest within the Marines was evident from General Allaga's announcement after the protest action that the chain of command they would obey would end with Philippine Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga.

Arroyo has requested a dialogue with disgruntled officers and forces of the AFP and PNP in the hope of winning them over. Anti-Arroyo officers and soldiers demanded that the dialogue cover the still unresolved "Hello Garci!" controversy and the involvement of several generals and misuse of the AFP and PNP in fraud during the last election. The group also demanded that the dialogue tackle unrest not only within the military and police but the broader social unrest which they blame on Arroyo.

No coup d'etat was actually launched and the officers of the AFP and PNP placed under arrest were merely involved in protest actions. Despite this, the regime continues to peddle lies about an alleged alliance between the CPP-NPA and military renegades who were planning a coup. The Philippine Army moved 1,200 loyalist soldiers from Central Luzon and Mindanao to Manila to act as a counter-coup force and protect Malacañang.

Meanwhile, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon revealed that several AFP officers had ordered five soldiers to smuggle into Metro Manila four packets of C4 explosives before Arroyo withdrew her declaration of a state of national emergency. The soldiers refused to obey the order, fearful that the regime would use the explosives for terrorist bombings in the metropolis. They are now in hiding, subjects of a shoot to kill order that has been issued for their insubordination. Biazon disclosed that 36 other teams had been ordered to smuggle explosives into the national capital region. **AB**

Lt. Crispin Tagamolila

## From the reactionary army to the people's army

**L**t. Crispin Tagamolila was an officer of the Philippine Army when he decided to join the New People's Army on March 29, 1971.

He was Finance Officer of the 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division which was then based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija and the only assault division of the Philippine Army.

Crispin Tagamolila grew up in Iloilo province. He finished college in Ateneo de Manila before deciding to join the AFP. He used to argue politics with his brother Antonio, who was then an activist and editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian*, the official student newspaper of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

As a young AFP officer, Lieutenant Tagamolila defended the government and subscribed to "peaceful means of social change." Then he became aware of the corruption in the ruling social system especially when he witnessed how Marcos rigged the 1969 elections. His political consciousness deepened when the

Marcos regime unleashed violence on the January 1970 demonstrations that culminated in the First Quarter Storm.

Lieutenant Tagamolila became friends with Lt. Victor Corpus who was then in the Philippine Constabulary (now the Philippine National Police). Both were graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. When they joined a debate where they defended the need for changes in the social system, they were blacklisted as suspected "radicals" in the AFP. When Lieutenant Corpus joined the NPA and carted away firearms in a raid on the PMA armory on December 29, 1970, Lieutenant Tagamolila came under greater suspicion in the eyes of the AFP.

As finance officer of the reactionary army, Lieutenant Tagamolila was exposed to the corruption within the 1st ID and the entire AFP. He was furious with the corruption that victimized common soldiers which was prevalent even then, such as the embezzlement and frequently delayed release of soldiers' salaries which were misappropriated by officers for private businesses or other anomalies.

He witnessed the anomalous sale of military equipment and vehicle spare parts. He was enraged by cases of officers forcing soldiers' wives to

become their mistresses.

Lieutenant Tagamolila's illusions were shattered.

No longer able to stomach the innumerable cases of corruption by high-ranking officers and the oppression of junior officers and enlisted personnel, he sought contact with the Red fighters and promptly decided to abandon the Armed Forces of the Philippines and join the NPA. His defection to the NPA was overshadowed by news on several activists who hijacked a Philippine Airlines plane from Manila to China on March 30, 1971.

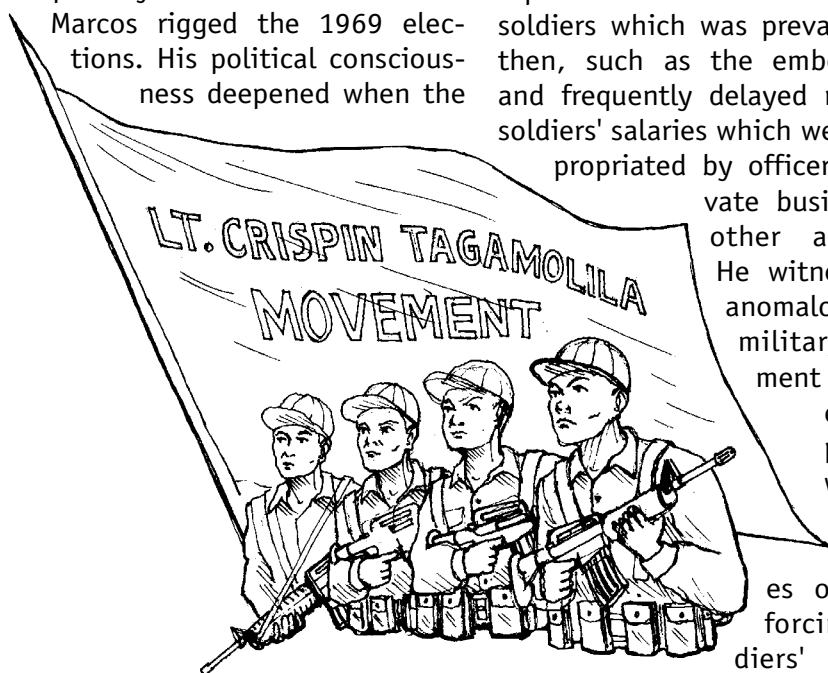
From then on, Lieutenant Tagamolila became known as Ka Cely.

Ka Cely was first deployed in Isabela where he became military instructor of the Cagayan Valley Regional Operational Command. He led the Mobile Military-Political School (MMPS) in 1971-72.

In communion with the masses, Ka Cely's commitment to the revolution deepened. He remoulded himself through fervent involvement in mass work and production. Aware of his roots in the reactionary military, he keenly felt the need to take root among the masses. He first took to learning the Iloko language with enthusiasm, having learned to speak only Hiligaynon and Tagalog as a child. Through diligence and perseverance, he swiftly mastered the language, until no one could differentiate him from an Ilokano.

His fast learning was motivated by his desire to help the masses who sought the NPA as their natural recourse in solving their problems regarding land, family or group disputes, and all sorts of troubles from marital problems to sibling and family rivalries.

The masses came to love Ka Cely because of his happy disposition and humility. He was steadfast and helpful. He always volunteered to carry the heaviest loads, ever





mindful of the welfare of the masses and comrades.

When he was wounded in a battle in 1971, the masses showed their love for him by bringing him fruits, chickens, a pig, and other gifts. "How sweet it is to be loved by the masses!" he exclaimed.

As instructor and military cadre, Ka Cely led the NPA's Company B in several victorious tactical offensives in Jones and Echague, Isabela. He perished in a battle in Barangay Kalatbagen, Dipanung, Echague on April 16, 1972.

Though he lived but briefly, Ka Cely continues to serve as an inspiration especially among junior officers, soldiers and personnel of the AFP and PNP seeking social change.

He lives on through those who have joined the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Movement (LCTM), a revolutionary movement that links up with and enjoins soldiers and policemen of the reactionary armed forces to side with the people and does organizing work among their ranks. Through the LCTM, the revolutionary movement has developed and maintained friends and allies among many officers, soldiers, and police personnel who lend support in various ways to strengthen the NPA and advance the revolution.

The conditions that drove Lieutenant Tagamolila to take the path of revolution continue to persist today, and are enlightening many likeminded junior officers in the AFP. More and more of them will surely decide to defect or link up with and support the genuine people's army. The NPA is prepared to welcome them as fighters or commanders, who, like Lt. Crispin Tagamolila, decided to train their weapons against the ruling classes and not on the oppressed people.

AB

# Proposal to celebrate historic milestones in the struggle against modern revisionism since 1956

20 February 2006

**W**e, the undersigned, hereby propose to all Marxist-Leninist-Maoist parties and organizations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the struggle against modern revisionism and to undertake activities for the purpose of renewing our commitment to pursue this struggle, which started in 1956 in opposition to the revisionist content of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in February 1956.

The struggle against modern revisionism reached a new and higher level when the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began in May 1966. But alas, since the death of Comrade Mao in September 1976, we have been confronted with the betrayal of socialism and the restoration of capitalism in China. We are challenged to up-

hold Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, combat modern revisionism and its evil consequences and achieve greater victories in fulfilling the historic mission of the proletariat to achieve socialism.

In the 20th Congress of the CPSU, the Soviet revisionist clique headed by Khrushchov repudiated the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism and the revolutionary achievements of Comrade Stalin under the pretext of opposing a "personality cult". It unveiled the phenomenon of modern revisionism in opposition to proletarian dictatorship and put the Soviet Union on the road of capitalist restoration.

It propagated bourgeois populism with the notions of "party of the whole people" and "state of the whole people" and bourgeois pacifism with the notions of "peaceful transition," "peaceful competition" and "peaceful coex-



istence". It used modern revisionism to undermine and subvert the international communist movement. It pushed "peaceful coexistence" as the general line to oppose proletarian internationalism and to attack the international communist movement and the national liberation movements.

Under the leadership of Comrade Mao Zedong, the Chinese Communist Party promptly issued in April 1956 the editorial of the *People's Daily*, "On the Historical Experience of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat". This defended the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism against the line of modern revisionism. It denounced the revisionists for sowing confusion in the international communist movement and generating disorder and uprisings against the socialist cause in Poland, Hungary and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

The delegation of the Chinese Communist Party pursued the anti-revisionist line in the Moscow meetings of communist and workers' parties in 1957 and 1960. Thereafter, it proceeded to the criticism and repudiation of the growing phenomenon of monopoly bureaucrat capitalism and social imperialism during the long regime of Brezhnev. Monopoly bureaucrat capitalism masqueraded as socialism while the bureaucrats and businessmen connived to steal from the state sector. In international relations, the Soviet revisionists engaged in socialist phrase-mongering and in the practice of imperialism.

Comrade Mao did not rest content with the critique of modern revisionism as it arose and grew in the Soviet Union and in the other countries of the Soviet bloc. He examined and analyzed the growth of modern revisionism in China, arising from both homegrown factors and external influences. Thus, he



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**By celebrating the 50 years of struggle against modern revisionism, we renew our commitment to persevere in the revolutionary struggle and strive to win ever greater victories under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.**

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launched the Great Proletarian Revolution in order to carry out the theory of continuing revolution under proletarian dictatorship. This is to combat revisionism, prevent the restoration of capitalism and consolidate socialism.

For as long as Comrade Mao was alive, he was able to lead the Chinese proletariat and people from victory to victory in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution against tremendous odds and against powerful adversaries. But soon after his death, the enemies of the Chinese proletariat and people made a coup and reversed his proletarian revolutionary line in carrying out socialist revolution and construction. Since then, China has increasingly taken the road of capitalist restoration.

The full restoration of capitalism in China vindicates the teaching of Comrade Mao that socialism is lost when the revisionist line prevails within the ruling communist or workers' party and that eventually the bourgeoisie within the party and state succeeds in unleashing a coup and overthrowing the proletariat. Comrade Mao has bequeathed to us a legacy by which we can combat and defeat modern revisionism and by which we can revive and further develop the forces of socialism.

For the entire year of 2006, we must undertake general campaigns and specific activities of theoretical and political education. We must confront the problem of modern revisionism as the most venomous enemy of the revolutionary

cause of socialism. We must reaffirm the written works and practical efforts of Comrade Mao and all other proletarian revolutionaries to uphold Marxism-Leninism and combat modern revisionism. We must defend the achievements of Comrade Stalin and Comrade Mao in socialist revolution and construction.

We must reaffirm Comrade Mao's revolutionary theory and practice of continuing revolution under proletarian dictatorship through the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. We must condemn the betrayal of socialism and of Comrade Mao's proletarian revolutionary line by the Chinese capitalist roaders. We must combat the varied revisionist tendencies that deviate from the scientific essence of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and its concrete application to revolutionary practice. We can do so by countering not only the traditional revisionist trends, classical and modern, but also various later trends, like Hoxaism and Trotskyism, which carry a revisionist content behind the ultra-Left appearance.

We must renew our determination and efforts to carry out the historic mission of the proletariat, which is to carry out socialist revolution and construction. All the evils that have beset the former revisionist-ruled countries should drive us to uphold Marxism-Leninism-Maoism against modern revisionism and to pursue the revolutionary cause of socialism.

Upon the temporary success of

modern revisionism against Marxism-Leninism and the dictatorship of the proletariat, monopoly capitalism headed by US imperialism has been able to launch the worst attacks against the proletariat and the oppressed peoples, such as "free market" globalization, racism, repression and wars of aggression. In response to the escalation of oppression and exploitation, the proletariat and people are intensifying their resistance through armed struggle and other forms of resistance.

It is the internationalist duty of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist parties to unite and to arouse, organize and mobilize the proletariat and people in their respective countries and in the world at large in the struggle for national liberation, democracy and socialism against imperialism, revisionism and reaction. By celebrating the 50 years of struggle against modern revisionism, we renew our commitment to persevere in the revolutionary struggle and strive to win ever greater victories under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

Uphold, defend and advance the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao!

Carry forward the revolution against imperialism, revisionism and reaction!

Glory to the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Long live Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!

#### Initial Signatories:

Communist Party of India (Maoist); Communist Party of the Philippines; Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist-Leninist; Communist League of Indonesia **AB**

## Revolution liberates the women of China

**T**he liberation of women was one of the achievements of the victorious national-democratic and socialist revolution in China led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

The CCP recognized and gave importance to the role of women in the revolution to end the oppressive semicolonial and semifeudal system and in the revolution for socialist construction. According to CCP chair and great Marxist-Leninist teacher Mao Zedong: "If women in the entire country rise up, the Chinese revolution will be victorious."

Chinese women had low standing in society prior to the revolution. According to Comrade Mao, if Chinese men from the working class during that time were dominated by three authorities—the political authority of the state, the authority of the family and clan, and the authority of religion—the Chinese women were dominated by a fourth one—the authority of

men.

In old China—before the triumph of the new democratic revolution—women played no significant role in production. They had little part to play in industry. Their role in agricultural production was extremely belittled. Due to their minimal involvement in production, they were considered inferior to men and they had no rights to ownership, management, decision-making, and leadership.

Lands in China then were monopolized by big landlords. Moreover, women had no right to own or manage land. Only men could inherit and manage land.

It was the custom to limit women to the home. They were barely different from slaves. Mo-





thers' roles were confined to child-rearing, and they and their female children were limited to doing household chores and such tasks as feeding farm animals and weaving. They were never educated, and never included in the social aspects of life. For instance, if the poor were prohibited from feasts in the ancestral temples, more so were women.

They were forced to marry men chosen by their parents and matchmakers. They had no right to remarry if they were widowed. On the other hand, men were allowed to replace their wives or take in concubines. Landlords routinely bought and housed concubines, who were usually from the poorest families. Concubines were never considered family members and neither were their rights as mothers recognized even after they gave birth to the landlord's offspring.

Wives who were aged, sick, or simply considered worthless by their husbands could just be driven out of the home. Landlords treated women like land, as chattel and commodities. Taking concubines from his tenant's families was one of the landlord's methods of tight-

ening control over the peasant's under his realm.

### **Victories of Chinese women**

Even before the formal announcement of the establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949, the emancipation of women was already formalized in the Common Program of The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) ratified by the First Plenary Session of the CP-PCC in Beijing on September 29, 1949. The sixth article of the document stated: "The People's Republic of China will end the feudal system that enslaves women. Women shall be given equal rights with men in politics, economy, culture, education, and society as a whole. Equal marital rights will be granted women and men."

Programs that elevated the status of women in society were put to widescale practice throughout China.

**In production.** A program for agrarian reform was launched upon the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Women were among those who received land distributed by the new govern-

ment. Women were allowed increasing participation in the advancement of cooperativism up to collectivization and socialist construction when the means of production were transformed into public property.

Millions of Chinese women, imprisoned in their homes for centuries, took part in the collective tasks of production. The status of Chinese women in their families, clans, communities, and in society rapidly rose in line with their ability to contribute to social production. Their knowledge and awareness broadened alongside their expanding tasks in production and the elevation of their status and worth in society.

The National Program for Agricultural Development during China's period of socialist construction in 1956 set the number of days for women's participation in agricultural tasks, provided equal pay for women in all lines of work, and recognized the need for women's health care.

The Common Program also contained a provision for the protection of the special interests or needs of women in industry.

The government's recognition of the role of women rapidly increased their participation in production. In 1958, when socialism in China started to flourish, 70% of women in the countryside were involved in production. In the cities, there were about 3.3 million women workers, an increase of 550% since 1949.

**Decision-making, leadership, the right to vote and be elected.**

It was a great victory for women that the First Plenary Session of the CPPCC in 1949 included 69 women or 10.4% of the entire delegation. They represented the women of China in a meeting that

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discussed socialist construction in the country. Several women delegates were elected for important positions. The participation of women in the CPPCC increased in the following years.

The Electoral Law of the People's Republic of China ratified in 1953 gave women equal rights to participate in elections. In local elections held that year, more than 90% of women voted and about 17% of those elected were women. Immediately afterwards, 12% of those chosen in the election for representatives to the National People's Congress were women. Among national minorities, who were traditionally conservative and oppressive of women, 11% of those elected were women.

**Education.** There was astounding growth in literacy levels among women. Prior to the revolution, 90% of Chinese women were illiterate. The new government launched a widescale campaign to increase levels of literacy, education and culture. Workers had classes at night and during days they were free from work. By 1958, the campaign in the countryside and cities enabled 16 million women to read.

**Marriage.** The Marriage law passed in 1950 recognized the free and equal rights of women to marry based on love and monogamy, and gave protection to the legitimate rights of women and children. This law put an end to the old feudal practice of arranged and forcible marriages and the superiority of men over their wives and children. This law also provided spouses with equal rights to ownership and divorce. Wife battering and other forms of cruelty significantly decreased. This law led to the annulment of a large number of forcible and oppressive marriages under the old order, and the end of

the thousand-year feudal system of marriage.

**Health.** A family planning campaign was launched to protect the health of women. This also afforded women more time and opportunity to engage in social and productive tasks and study, and not be limited to bearing and rearing children. (This also addressed the need to plan the economy based on an appropriate population growth to ensure sufficient food, jobs, and security for the population.)

**Ban on prostitution.** The People's Republic of China immediately banned prostitution in China. A campaign against prostitution was launched throughout the country. Prostitution dens were closed. Ailing women prostitutes were given medical care. They were educated, provided assistance to lead normal lives, and given the opportunity to

work in other jobs. Prostitution was eradicated in the country in only a short time during China's socialist construction.

During the revolution in China and at the time they achieved victory, Chinese women were liberated and gained higher standing in their families, clans, communities, and society as a whole. The old, feudal and patriarchal system that for centuries oppressed China's women was torn down.

Women gained power, improved their capabilities and enjoyed equal participation in politics, economics, science, education, culture, and other aspects of social life in China. A culture of equality was established. The Chinese experience shows that only through a victorious national democratic and socialist revolution could women and the rest of the people gain true liberation. AB

## Protests meet Bush visit to India and Pakistan

"Death to Bush!" "Bush, murderer; go home!" shouted hundreds of thousands of Indians and Pakistanis as US Pres. George W. Bush visited their countries in the first week of March. Bush went to India on March 1-3 and to Pakistan on March 4-5 on his first official visit to both countries.

Bush had wanted to gain the sympathy of the people in his visit to India, especially since the country has strategic politico-military value both in Asia and globally. Instead, he was met with various protests by hundreds of thousands of citizens. Around 100,000 people joined a demonstration in the Central New Delhi plaza in India. The protest action denounced the US government's war-mongering policies and its invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bush proceeded to Pakistan despite the bombing of the US embassy in the country on March 2 that left three employees dead. As in India, huge protest actions greeted Bush in Pakistan. Out of fear, Bush and his puppet President Pervez Musharraf ordered the arrest and detention of an opposition leader and 350 other anti-US activists. Bush's plane was forced to land with its lights out amid tight security measures in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. Bush immediately hid inside the US embassy. AB

## Latest cases of fascist repression

AT LEAST 17 persons in various parts of the Philippines have been summarily executed since January in the Arroyo regime's relentless fascist campaign against progressive organizations and parties and civilians suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement. A progressive leader has also been abducted and remains missing to date.

Unidentified armed men abducted Joey Estriber, 35, provincial secretary-general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) on the night of March 3 in Baler, Aurora. Witnesses said that he was forced at gunpoint to board a red Kia Besta van which had no plate number. Primary suspects in Estriber's abduction are 48th IB elements. He remains missing and is feared dead.

In Quezon, the regime's death squad mercilessly killed on February 28 Napoleon Pornasodoro, 45, a teacher at the Quezon National High School. At the time of his death, Pornasodoro headed the Southern Tagalog Teachers for Development (STATEMENT) and was a member of the National Council of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT). He was also a former officer of BAYAN-Quezon.

In Northern Samar, elements of the 20th IB abducted, beat up and killed civilian Jose Agas, 65, in

Barangay E. Duran, Bobon on February 25 after a series of gunbattles between the military and the New People's Army. Also killed by military agents on February 27 was Trujillo, Bobon barangay captain and Bayan Muna member Oswaldo Galos. More than 2,000 people have been forcibly evacuated since the 20th IB, 82nd Recon Coy and 63rd IB launched large-scale military operations on February 9, resulting in countless human rights violations in Bobon, Lope de Vega and Catarman in Northern Samar and in Oquindo District, Calbayog in Samar.

Meanwhile, Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson, reported that 14 mass leaders in the island have been summarily executed by armed minions of the puppet-fascist Arroyo regime since January this year, including three community leaders in Makilala, North Cotabato; a leader of a transport association in Davao City; and ten peasant leaders—one in Cagwait, Surigao del Sur; three in San Luis, Agusan del Sur; one in Bislig City; another in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte; and four in Cecilia, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur.

In Cagayan de Oro, 4th ID troopers forcibly entered and ransacked the Bayan Muna-Northern Mindanao office on the night of March 6.

### Rape victim raps government inaction

A WOMAN raped by four American soldiers in Subic, Zambales on November 1, 2005 appeared before the mass media to condemn the Arroyo regime's disregard for her case.

In an ABS-CBN interview, the victim nicknamed "Nicole" expressed utter disgust for the regime's preference for maintaining "good relations" between the US and the Philippines rather than pursuing justice for her case.

She viewed the American soldiers' involvement in the search and rescue operations in landslide-hit Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte as a face-saving gimmick and coverup for their crimes against the people. She asked the Arroyo government to demand custody over the four accused American soldiers. The Arroyo government formally waived its right to take custody of the accused in January. The victim denied allegations that she had been paid to withdraw her charges. She vowed to pursue her case even without the government's support.

### MMDA streetsweepers launch protest action

ABOUT 200 streetsweepers employed by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) launched a mass action on March 5 to protest the more than one year delay in the release of their Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA). They stood in the middle of the highway and blocked traffic for 20 minutes along EDSA near the offices of the MMDA in Magallanes, Makati City. Sakamay, the streetsweepers organization, led the protest action and is currently negotiating with MMDA for a Collective Negotiating Agreement (CNA). MMDA employs about 1,000 streetsweepers.

### First release of Sine Proletaryo

**S**ine Proletaryo released on March 1 the video "People Power" which tackles the Filipino people's continuing struggle to oust the Arroyo regime.

Sine Proletaryo is the newly established video production unit of the Communist Party of the Philippines Information Bureau. "People Power" is its initial release under Signos, a regular program of Sine Proletaryo. The 20-minute video production is being distributed in VCD format.